

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable image recording apparatus comprising:  
a coding unit which codes an input sound and image  
data relating to an image;

5 a parameter setting unit which variably sets a frame  
rate and a bit rate of coding to be executed by the coding  
unit according to a type of contents of the image; and  
a recording unit which records the coded data obtained  
by the coding unit into a small-sized recording medium.

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2. A portable image recording apparatus comprising:  
a coding unit which codes the input sound and image  
data relating to an image;

15 a parameter setting unit which variably sets a frame  
rate and a bit rate of coding to be executed by the coding  
unit according to a size of the image; and  
a recording unit which records the coded data obtained  
by the coding unit into a small-sized recording medium.

20 3. A portable image recording apparatus comprising:  
a coding unit which codes the input sound and image  
data relating to an image;  
a parameter setting unit which variably sets a frame  
rate and a bit rate of coding to be executed by the coding  
25 unit according to a resolution of the image; and

a recording unit which records the coded data obtained by the coding unit into a small-sized recording medium.

4. A portable image recording apparatus comprising:

5 a coding unit which codes the input sound and image data relating to an image;

a parameter setting unit which variably sets a frame rate or an image quality of a frame of coding to be executed by the coding unit within a predetermined range of the frame 10 rate or a predetermined range of the image quality of the frame respectively so that a current bit rate maintains a target bit rate during the coding; and

a recording unit which records the coded data obtained by the coding unit into a small-sized recording medium.

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5. A portable image recording apparatus comprising:

a coding unit which codes the input sound and image data relating to an image;

a database which previously stores therein optimal 20 ranges of a frame rate, a bit rate, and a frame image quality of coding to be executed by the coding unit according to a type, a size, and a resolution of the image;

a first parameter setting unit which selects a frame rate and a bit rate which are optimal for a selected image 25 type, an image size, and an image resolution based on the

contents of the database and setting the selected frame rate and the bit rate in the coding unit as initial values;

1 a second parameter setting unit which variably sets a frame rate or an image quality of a frame of coding to  
5 be executed by the coding unit within a predetermined range of the frame rate and a predetermined range of the frame image quality respectively so that a current bit rate maintains a target bit rate during coding; and

10 a recording unit which records the coded data obtained by the coding unit into a small-sized recording medium.

6. The portable image recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the second parameter setting unit sets the frame rate and the frame image quality for every one frame.

15 7. The portable image recording apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the contents are stored in the database based on an inspection by users.

20 8. The portable image recording apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

a decoding unit which reads and decodes the sound and image data stored in the small-sized recording medium; and  
a reproduction unit which reproduces the decoded sound  
25 and image data.